

Bays and Estuaries (24) and Gulf of Mexico (25)

BAYS AND ESTUARIES (24)

The Texas Coast includes nine major bay systems. The coastal plain is characterized by a gently sloping, lowland environment. Historical periods of coastal flooding and intense sediment deposition have sculpted the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. Today, much of the coastal region is comprised of large bays, lagoons, extensive wetlands, sandy beaches, and barrier islands. Most coastal waters in Texas are named as bays, but have freshwater inflows that make them estuaries. The estuaries are typically bordered by tidal marshes and mud-sand flats. Most of the Texas estuaries are shallow, have turbid water due to suspended sediment, and are semi-enclosed by barrier islands.

Segments that contain multiple bays are shown with separate labels for each bay.

- 2411Sabine Pass * - from the end of the jetties at the Gulf of Mexico to SH 82
- 2412Sabine Lake *
- 2421Upper Galveston Bay *
- 2422Trinity Bay *
- 2423East Bay *
- 2424West Bay *
- 2425Clear Lake *
- 2426Tabbs Bay *
- 2427San Jacinto Bay *
- 2428Black Duck Bay *
- 2429Scott Bay *
- 2430Burnett Bay *
- 2431Moses Lake *

- 2432Chocolate Bay *
- 2433Bastrop Bay/Oyster Lake *
- 2434Christmas Bay *
- 2435Drum Bay *
- 2436Barbours Cut *
- 2437Texas City Ship Channel *
- 2438Bayport Channel *
- 2439Lower Galveston Bay *
- 2441East Matagorda Bay *
- 2442Cedar Lakes *
- 2451Matagorda Bay/Powderhorn Lake *
- 2452Tres Palacios Bay/Turtle Bay *
- 2453Lavaca Bay/Chocolate Bay *
- 2454Cox Bay *
- 2455Keller Bay *
- 2456Carancahua Bay *
- 2461Espiritu Santo Bay *
- 2462San Antonio Bay/Hynes Bay/Guadalupe Bay *
- 2463Mesquite Bay/Carlos Bay/Ayres Bay *
- 2471Aransas Bay *
- 2472Copano Bay/Port Bay/Mission Bay *
- 2473St. Charles Bay *

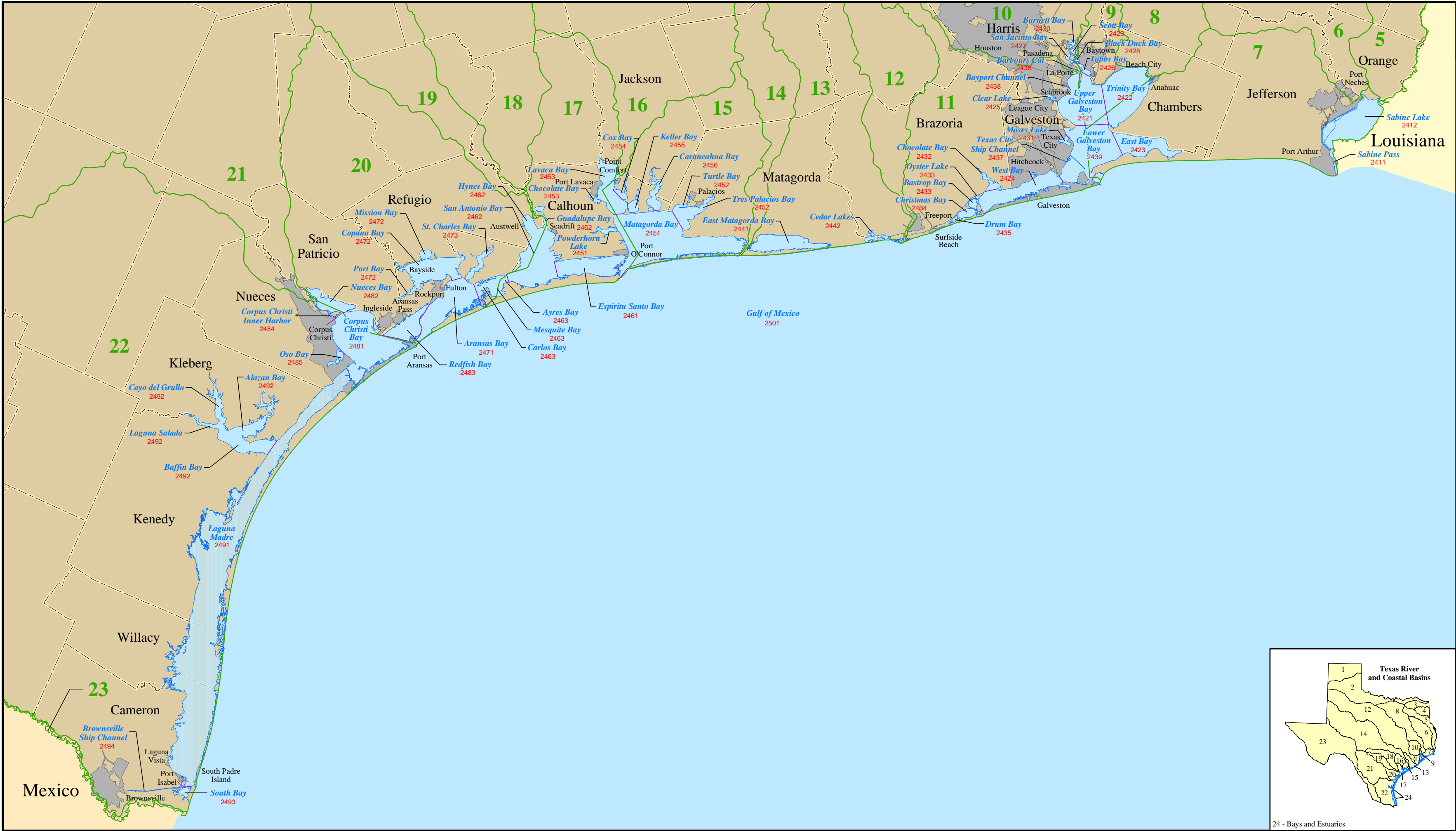
- 2481Corpus Christi Bay *
- 2482Nueces Bay *
- 2483Redfish Bay *
- 2484Corpus Christi Inner Harbor * - from US 181 to Viola Turning Basin
- 2485Oso Bay *
- 2491Laguna Madre *
- 2492Baffin Bay/Alazan Bay/Cayo del Grullo/Laguna Salada *
- 2493South Bay *
- 2494Brownsville Ship Channel *

GULF OF MEXICO (25)

The Gulf of Mexico covers about 600,000 square miles; Texas has jurisdiction over less than 1 percent of the total surface area. The open water portion of the Gulf in Texas covers approximately 3,879 square miles and includes 624 shoreline miles. The Gulf of Mexico provides various marine resources including navigation, recreation, oil and gas, commercial fisheries, and oysters. Gulf coast ports are served by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, which extends 1,200 miles from Brownsville to Carrabelle, Florida.

- 2501Gulf Waters - The state’s area of jurisdiction in the Gulf of Mexico extends from the mean high water mark out to 10.36 miles into the Gulf, in the area between Sabine Pass to the north and Brazos Santiago Pass to the south.

* The segment boundaries are considered to be the mean high tide line.



Bays and Estuaries

Level III Ecoregions:



Legend

- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Classified Segment Number
- Classified Stream Segment
- Minor Stream
- Reservoir, Bay, Estuary
- Segment Boundary
- Basin Boundary
- City Boundary
- County Boundary

Note: All features except county lines and some city boundaries are clipped to the extent of the watershed.

Source: The county boundaries and major streams were acquired from the U.S. Census Bureau and are part of the 1992 TIGER/Line dataset (1:100,000). The minor streams are based on the Environmental Protection Agency's River Reach File Version 3.0 Alpha Release (RF3-Alpha), completed in 1998 at a scale of 1:100,000. The river basins are derived from the 1974 Hydrologic Unit Map of Texas (1:500,000) and were digitized by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1990. The classified stream segment names, numbers, and boundaries are defined in Title 30, Chapter 307 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and were revised by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in 2000. The highway data are based on enhanced U.S. Census Bureau 1990 TIGER/Line data (1:100,000) published in 1992 by Geographic Data Technology (GDT), Inc. The cities were derived from U.S. Census Bureau 1998 TIGER/Line data (1:100,000).

0 10 20 30 40 Miles

Scale 1:1,245,000

Projection: Texas Statewide Mapping System (TSMS)



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